

**UiT**

THE ARCTIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF NORWAY

# How to write the Kappe

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# Outline

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- Wh-questions
  - Kappe styles
  - General advice- Summary
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- The bottom right corner of the slide features three overlapping diagonal lines: a white line, a light orange line, and a darker orange line, all extending from the bottom right towards the center.

**Who?**


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**You!**

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# Why?

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- Simple: because you have chosen an article based dissertation
  - Positive side: you will finished your PhD with some (pending) publications
  - You will get some practice in writing papers and the reviewing process
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# What is the function of the Kappe?

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- Discuss all the papers contained in your dissertation in a unified account
  - Focus on the red thread of all of your papers: what you embarked to discover, how the papers as a whole contribute to adding to our knowledge if that topic
  - It is a bird's eye view of your thesis, not just a summary of the papers
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# When should you start writing the Kappe?

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- You have to know exactly what the results and analyses in your papers are before you start writing it
  - It is the last thing that you do
  - Start writing it when the papers are submitted or at least in their finalized forms
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# How long does it take to write it?

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- At least three months
- Do not underestimate it: it is not a patchwork of the background and result in you papers
- It is a discussion on its own
- Dedicate the deserved amount of time and care
- Most of the committee's comments will focus on the Kappe



# Where?


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- Try writing it in the UiT dissertation template from early on
- Download [here](#)
- Allow for the time to get used to the technical side of the template
- Do not copy-paste it section by section
- Good IT support at orakel



# Different styles of Kappe

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- Background/Introduction approach
  - Descriptive approach
  - Article approach
  - Unifying approach
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# Background/Introduction approach

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- Tolskaya 2014
- Most of the Kappe is **background discussion** without making any particular reference to the papers until the last section where an overview of the dissertation is provided
- 8 sections, **no sub-sections**
- The Kappe is a condensed literature review of all of the papers
- Good strategy if each of your papers deals with a different aspect of the big phenomenon you are exploring

# Descriptive approach

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- Mitrofanova 2016
- The introduction provides a very **clear explanation** of how the papers look at different aspects of the phenomenon but also what are the common themes and assumptions
- The background includes main **theoretical assumptions** and the discussion of **papers to which these assumptions apply**
- **Theoretical and experimental** approaches and papers are described separately
- Direct connection between background and paper
- Section of future research

# Article approach

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- Castro 2016
  - Structured as an article
  - Monographic element: an appendix after the papers
1. Discussion of the **theoretical background** and places the whole study within a the discussed theoretical framework
  2. Outline of the specific **linguistic phenomena**
  3. Outline of the **goals** of the study
  4. **Methodology** (Paper 1 and 2, and Paper 3 separately)
  5. Summary of the **results** (separately for each paper)
  6. **Discussion** (unified account)

# Unified approach

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- Velnić 2017
- Long: the papers covered different angles and each paper contained something in addition to the rest
- Two big **background sections** (syntactic structures and pragmatic entailments)
- **Goals** of the study (identification of the research gap)
- **Brief summary** of the papers (in order to allow a discussion)
- The discussion identifies the main findings of the thesis and each one is **discussed as a whole**, not separated per paper as all papers contribute to each finding
- Open questions
- Conclusion and the contribution of the dissertation

# Challenges


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1. Starting: “Begin, beginning is half the work.”
2. Structuring: What goes in and what goes out
  - Identify the ‘common denominator’ for your background: what is essential for understanding the discussion?
3. Sticking to the plan: avoiding the urge to digress
4. Proofreading: you will be sick of reading your own work so many times
  - Get a good proofreader, preferably a native speaker of English but also someone who has some working knowledge of your discipline and conventions
5. Let it go: It will never be perfect, it has to be good enough.
  - This is the passport for getting into the world of research, not the best work you will ever do.
  - Accept its flaws and know that you are more aware of those flaws than the committee.



# Preparing for the defense

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- The written report of the committee usually has some comments stated explicitly
  - Meet with your supervisor to identify the other possible areas that the committee was unclear about
  - Prepare your answers: read additional literature, place the answers in your research
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# Closing remarks

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- Choose the style that fits your research best
- Discuss with your supervisor(s) what has to be in the Kappe and what doesn't need to be
- Create a table of content before you start writing
- Try to stick to it
- Try to avoid three-layer headings (2.1.3) because something so detailed doesn't probably belong in the Kappe



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Thank you!

Questions?

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